8       (i)     a pre-existing identifier of the second user, wherein the pre-

existing identifier enables communication with the second user independent of the

10     value exchange system; and

      (ii)    a value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user;

12     and

   (c)    at the value exchange system:

14       (i)     generating a notification of said value exchange transaction;

      (ii)    sending said notification to the second user; and

16       (iii)   allocating said value between said first account and a second

account associated with the second user.

18

2.     (Once Amended)     The method of claim 1, further comprising:

20    registering the second user with the value exchange system if not already

registered.

22

3.     (Unchanged)   The method of claim 1, wherein said value to be exchanged

24   between the first user and the second user is to be transferred from the first user to the

second user.

26

4.     (Unchanged)   The method of claim 1, wherein said value to be exchanged

28   between the first user and the second user is to be transferred from the second user to the

first user.

30

5.     (Unchanged)   The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged

32   between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user as a

redeemable voucher.

34

6.     (Unchanged)   The method of claim 5, wherein said redeemable voucher is

36   redeemable by the second user by selecting an electronic link provided to the second

user.

38

7. (Unchanged) The method of claim 5, wherein the redeemable voucher includes an electronic advertisement.

8. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user through a debit card.

9. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user in the form of a web certificate, and wherein the method further comprises:

transferring said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user from the second user to a third user.

10. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said pre-existing identifier is a telephone number.

11. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said pre-existing identifier is an electronic mail address.

12. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving a value exchange transaction comprises:

initiating a value exchange involving a second user on a mobile client device of said first user;

establishing a connection between the first user and the value exchange system; and

transmitting said value exchange to the system.

13. (Unchanged) The method of claim 12, wherein said initiating a value exchange transaction comprises establishing a communication link between the first user's mobile computing device and a second user's mobile client device.

70  14.  (Unchanged)  The method of claim 1, wherein said value exchange transaction is received from the first user through a mobile communication device.

72

74  15.  (Unchanged)  The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile communication device is a personal digital assistant.

76  16.  (Unchanged)  The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile communication device is a telephone.

78

80  17.  (Unchanged)  The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile communication device is a two-way pager.

82  18.  (Unchanged)  The method of claim 14, wherein said value exchange transaction is received from the mobile communication device through a wireless

84  network.

86  19.  (Unchanged)  The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile communication device is a disconnectable device.

88

90  20.  (Unchanged)  The method of claim 1, further comprising converting said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user from a first form to a second form.

92

94  21.  (Unchanged)  The method of claim 20, wherein said first form is a first currency and said second form is a second currency.

96  22.  (Unchanged)  The method of claim 1, wherein the form of said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user depends on the pre-existing

98  identifier.

100  23.  (Unchanged)  The method of claim 1, further comprising holding said

102     value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user in escrow with an
escrow party until said value exchange transaction is completed.

104     24.     (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating (b), (c) and (d) for a second value exchange transaction between the second user and a third

106     user.

108     25.     (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein an asymmetric cryptographic scheme is applied to secure said value exchange transaction.

110

26.     (Twice Amended)     A method of facilitating an exchange of value

112     between multiple users through a distributed transaction system, comprising:

(a)     receiving an instruction from a first user to exchange a value with a

114     second user, wherein the first user is a registered user of the distributed transaction system and the instruction includes:

116     (i)     an identifier of a second user not registered with the distributed transaction system, wherein said identifier is usable to identify the second user

118     independently of the distributed transaction system; and

(ii)     the value to be exchanged between the first user and the second

120     user;

(b)     notifying the second user of said value exchange by the distributed

122     transaction system;

(c)     registering the second user with the distributed transaction system; and

124     (d)     transferring said value between the first user and the second user within the distributed transaction system.

126

27.     (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said identifier is an

128     electronic mail address.

130     28.     (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said identifier is a telephone number.

132

29.    (Unchanged)   The method of claim 26, wherein said instruction is

134    received through a mobile communication device operated by the first user.


136    30.    (Twice Amended)    A method of facilitating a financial transaction

between a first user and a second user through a distributed financial services system, the

138    method comprising:

(a)    registering a first user with the distributed financial services system;

140    (b)    receiving at the distributed financial services system a financial exchange

request from a mobile communication device operated by the first user, wherein said

142    financial transaction request includes:

(i)    a pre-existing identifier of a second user participating in said

144    financial exchange, wherein said pre-existing identifier is configured to identify

the second user for a purpose other than conducting a financial exchange with the

146    financial services system; and

(ii)    an amount of the financial exchange;

148    (c)    generating and sending a notification of said financial exchange request

from the distributed financial service system to the second user; and

150    (d)    within the distributed financial service system, allocating said amount of

said financial exchange between the first user and the second user.

152

31.    (Unchanged)   The method of claim 30, wherein said pre-existing

154    identifier is an electronic mail address.


156    32.    (Unchanged)   The method of claim 30, wherein said pre-existing

identifier is a telephone number.

158

33.    (Unchanged)   The method of claim 30, further comprising:

160    (c')    registering the second user with the distributed financial services system

before allocating said amount of said financial exchange.

162

34.     (Once Amended)     A value exchange system for exchanging value
164   between multiple users, comprising:

a database configured to store information concerning registered users of the
166   value exchange system and details of transactions conducted by the registered users;

a synchronization server configured to receive a first value exchange transaction
168   from a client device operated by a first party, wherein said first value exchange
transaction involves a second party identified by the first party with an electronic mail
170   address; and

a communication server configured to:
172           notify the second party of said first value exchange transaction using said
electronic mail address; and
174           receive a connection from the second party and register the second party if
not already registered.
176

35.     (Unchanged)   The system of claim 34, further comprising a financial
178   server configured to interact with a financial institution to access value to facilitate said
first value exchange transaction.
180

36.     (Unchanged)   The system of claim 34, further comprising a security
182   server configured to generate a digital identity certificate that may be used to authenticate
the first party.
184

37.     (Unchanged)   The system of claim 36, wherein said security server is
186   further configured to authenticate a digital transaction certificate that may be used to
authenticate said value exchange transaction.
188

38.     CANCEL
190

39.     (Once Amended)     A computer readable storage medium storing
192   instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method
of facilitating a value exchange between multiple users in a distributed value exchange

194    system without requiring a user to initiate a communication to another user, the method comprising:

196    (a)    registering a first user with the value exchange system, wherein the first user is assigned a first account with the value exchange system;

198    (b)    receiving at the value exchange system a value exchange transaction from the first user, wherein said transaction involves a second user and includes:

200    (i)    a pre-existing identifier of the second user, wherein the pre-existing identifier enables communication with the second user independent of the

202    value exchange system; and

(ii)    a value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user;

204    and

(c)    at the value exchange system:

206    (i)    generating a notification of said value exchange transaction;

(ii)    sending said notification to the second user; and

208    (iii)    allocating said value between said first account and a second account associated with the second user.

210

40.    (Once Amended)    A computer readable storage medium storing

212    instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to a method of facilitating an exchange of value between multiple users through a distributed transaction

214    system, the method comprising:

(a)    receiving an instruction from a first user to exchange a value with a

216    second user, wherein the first user is a registered user of the distributed transaction system and the instruction includes:

218    (i)    an identifier of a second user not registered with the distributed transaction system, wherein said identifier is usable to identify the second user

220    independently of the distributed transaction system; and

(ii)    the value to be exchanged between the first user and the second

222    user;

(b)    notifying the second user of said value exchange by the distributed

224    transaction system;

(c)     registering the second user with the distributed transaction system; and

226     (d)     transferring said value between the first user and the second user within the distributed transaction system.

228

41.     (Once Amended)     A computer readable storage medium storing

230     instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to a method of facilitating a financial transaction between a first user and a second user through a

232     distributed financial services system, the method comprising:

(a)     registering a first user with the distributed financial services system;

234     (b)     receiving at the distributed financial services system a financial exchange request from a mobile communication device operated by the first user, wherein said

236     financial transaction request includes:

(i)     a pre-existing identifier of a second user participating in said

238     financial exchange, wherein said pre-existing identifier is configured to identify

the second user for a purpose other than conducting a financial exchange with the

240     financial services system; and

(ii)     an amount of the financial exchange;

242     (c)     generating and sending a notification of said financial exchange request from the distributed financial service system to the second user; and

244     (d)     within the distributed financial service system, allocating said amount of said financial exchange between the first user and the second user.

246

42.     (Unchanged)     A system for facilitating the transfer of value from

248     one user to another user, comprising:

means for receiving a value transfer request from a value provider, wherein said

250     value transfer request comprises:

an electronic mail address of a value receiver; and

252     a first value to be transferred from the value provider to the value receiver;

means for transferring said first value from a first account associated with the

254     value provider to a second account associated with the value receiver; and

means for notifying the value receiver of said value transfer;

256        wherein the value receiver is identifiable, for purposes of said value transfer, only by said electronic mail address.

258

        43.    (Once Amended)    A method of transferring value, comprising:

260        receiving a connection from a registered user of a value transfer system;

        receiving from the registered user a request to execute a transfer to an

262    unregistered party, wherein the unregistered party is identified only by an electronic mail address, the request comprising:

264                said electronic mail address of the unregistered party; and

                a first value to be transferred to the unregistered party;

266        sending notification of said transfer from said value transfer system to the unregistered party via electronic mail;

268        registering the unregistered party, wherein said registering comprises creating an account for the unregistered party; and

270        at the value transfer system, transferring said first value from the registered user to the unregistered user.

272

        44.    (Once Amended)    A method of transferring value, comprising:

274        receiving a connection from a first user of a value transfer system;

        receiving from the first user a request to execute a value transfer to a second user,

276    the request comprising:

                an electronic mail address of the second user; and

278                a first value to be transferred to the second user; and

        sending a notification of said value transfer from said value transfer system to the

280    second user via electronic mail;

        wherein said electronic mail address is sufficient for said value transfer system to

282    transfer said first value from an account of the first user to an account associated with the second user.

284

        45.    (New)    The method of claim 1, wherein said registering the first

286    user comprises creating said first account.

288  46.  (New)  The method of claim 45, wherein said receiving comprises said registering.

290

47.  (New)  The method of claim 1, wherein said allocating comprises:

292  creating said second account; and

registering the second user.